



Customer No. 26874
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE
Atty. Docket: END895-0511038

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Kenneth S. Wales et al. : Paper No:
Serial No. 10/615,973 : Group Art Unit:
Filed: July 9, 2003 : Examiner:
For: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT INCORPORATING AN ARTICULATION
MECHANISM HAVING ROTATION ABOUT THE LONGITUDINAL AXIS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

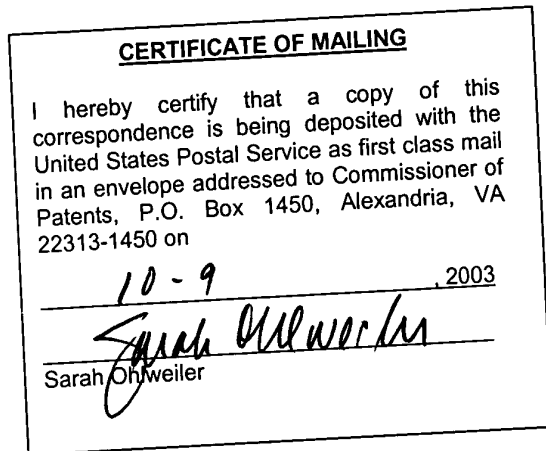
Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants herewith submit certain patent references which the Patent and Trademark Office may wish to consider in examining the above-identified application. The references are provided below, and are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449.

U.S. Patents	Issue Date	Inventor
US 5,405,344	04-11-1995	Williamson et al.
US 5,465,895	11-14-1995	Knodel et al.
US 5,553,765	09-10-1996	Knodel et al.
US 6,250,532 B1	06-26-2001	Green et al.

Pursuant to the waiver published in the Pre-OG Notice, dated July 11, 2003, no copies are provided herewith of U.S. patents cited. No representation is made or intended that a prior art search has been made or that no better art than the listed is available. It is respectfully requested that the information be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the present application.

Serial No. 10/615,973



Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth S. Wales et al.

David E. Franklin

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9 Dec, 2003

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Substitute for Form 1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application No. 10/615,973
Filing Date July 9, 2003
First Named Inventor WALES, Kenneth S. et al.
Art Unit
Examiner Name
Attorney Docket No. END895-0511038

Sheet

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of

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner initials		Cite No.	DOCUMENT NUMBER		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
			Number-Kind code ² (if known)				
		US-	5,405,344		04-11-1995	Williamson et al.	
		US-	5,465,895		11-14-1995	Knodel et al.	
		US-	5,553,765		09-10-1996	Knodel et al.	
		US-	6,250,532 B1		06-26-2001	Green et al.	
		US-					
		US-					
		US-					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind code ⁵ (if known)				

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T ⁶

EXAMINER SIGNATURE _____

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

DATE CONSIDERED _____

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.